

MINUTES
WARSAW TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 12, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Warsaw Town Council was held on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at 78 Belle Ville Lane, Warsaw, VA. Council Members Present: Vice-Mayor Paul G. Yackel, Ogle E. Forrest, Sr, Rebecca Hubert, Mary Beth Bryant, and Jonathan B. English. Council members absent were Faron Hamblin, Ralph Self, and Mayor Randall Phelps.

Town staff present: Town Manager Joseph N. Quesenberry, Director of Community Development and Planning Melissa Coates, Interim Wastewater Plant Manager Garrett Withers, Chief Joan Kent, and Treasurer and Clerk Julia Blackley-Rice.

Also present: Approximately 8 others present in Council Chambers.

The meeting was live streamed on the Town of Warsaw Facebook page

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice- Mayor Yackel called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

After reviewing the consent agenda, Councilman Self moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, with one correction in the minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bryant and carried with the following votes.

Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Rebecca Hubert	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Jonathan B. English	Aye		

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Packett Rentals- Vice-Mayor Yackel opened the public hearing by reading the public notices that were published in the April 20 & 27, 2022 editions of the Northern Neck News.

There were several written statements received by the Town Manager. Town Manager Joseph Quesenberry read the statements aloud to the body. The first statement, written by Reamy Chalkley, was against the proposed dwellings. The second statement from Elizabeth Norris was also against the proposed dwellings. The third statement, from Carol Mead Smith, was in favor of the proposed dwellings. The fourth statement, from the Burkes', was written in favor of the proposed dwellings. The fifth and sixth written statements from Gabe Del Rio and Andy Beale were both in favor of the proposed dwellings.

After the written statements were read aloud, the floor was opened for public comment. The first to speak were Sherry Derby and Michelle Childress, who both work for Mr. Gregory Packett. They spoke to the need for housing in this area and explained how extensive the waitlist was for working citizens in Warsaw and the Northern Neck area. Michelle Ayala then spoke- she states that she moved here from New Jersey with a family of 6 and into one of Mr. Packett's apartments. If they had not gotten an apartment, her husband would have to travel almost an hour to work. It has been a wonderful opportunity and she supports the proposed dwellings. Belinda Reynolds spoke on two points. She asks Council to make sure Mr. Packett gets the correct approval from both VDOT and DEQ. She is concerned that the site line is not there at the entrance. She has apartment residents crossing onto her property as a shortcut. She is not opposing the proposed dwellings, but she wants it to be done correctly. Tiffany Hackett spoke and has similar concerns with VDOT approval and traffic flow. There is a lot of traffic in town, and she is worried that it will get worse or not be handled properly with the addition of more apartments and or homes. Stan Murphy, the lawyer representing Mr. Packett, spoke on the importance of affordable housing in this area. He believes that apartments like these provide housing for admired members of the community such as teachers, nurses, etc. He urges Council to approve the proposed dwellings.

With no other comments, Vice-Mayor Yackel closed the Public Hearing.

Vice-Mayor Yackel asked Joseph Quesenberry to explain the project and the process. Tonight, Council would be approving the overview of the project and then staff would work on plan review and other approvals. Discussion followed with Council members. Council members have concerns with the traffic issue in that area as well. There are unanswered questions that need answering and explaining.

Councilman Forrest made a motion to table until the June meeting to gather more information before a decision is made. Councilwoman Hubert seconded the motion which was carried by the following votes:

Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Rebecca Hubert	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Jonathan B. English	Aye		

2. Helena Chemical- Vice- Mayor Yackel opened the public hearing by reading the public notice that was published in the April 20 & 27, 2022 editions of the Northern Neck News.

There were no written statements and no public comments. Councilman Forrest spoke on how well the company has done in Warsaw.

Vice-Mayor Yackel closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Forrest made a motion to approve this request. Councilman English seconded the motion which was carried by the following votes:

Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Rebecca Hubert	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Jonathan B. English	Aye		

3. 2023 Budget- Vice-Mayor Yackel stated that the Public Hearing regarding the budget was advertised in the April 20 & 27, 2022 editions of the Northern Neck News.

With no comments, Vice-Mayor Yackel closed the Public Hearing.

Discussion with Council members followed. The budget looks good with no increase in taxes. Councilman Forrest would like to commend the Town Staff for the hard work that has been done on the budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice-Mayor Yackel opened the floor to the public for public comments. There were no public comments outside of Public Hearings.

REPORTS

MAYORS REPORT: No report.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

- ADA Playground Equipment- Joseph Quesenberry met with the provider of the playground equipment that the Town has now, All Rec. The grass area by the bathrooms will be used for handicap accessible equipment and a parent-child swing. We should have a layout and approximate cost by next month's meeting.
- Mural Project- Murals should be done by the next council meeting. There are 2 downtown and 1 on route 360.
- Ribbon cuttings- On June 2nd there will be multiple ribbon cuttings for businesses in town.
- Building Progress on Main- There have been issues with finding contractors to finish various jobs. They are working diligently to get it finished as fast as possible.
- VA Living Magazine Best- Warsaw had various winners for the Eastern Region of Virginia's 2022 "bests".
- Community Market- Cancelled for this week due to the weather.
- 4th Fridays- Come out on June 24th for the first concert of the Summer, Soul Expressions.
- VLGMA Conference- The Town Manager will be attending and running the conference in the second week of June with other local government leaders across the state. He will not be here for Council on June 9th, but Melissa Coates will step in.

- Comprehensive Plan- Kick off for the comprehensive plan will be May 17th and the agenda is included in the packets. There will be a tour with the Berkley Group followed by the meeting with dinner provided.
- Bus stop issue- The Chief and the new Chief will make the officers aware and will make sure someone sits in the area to monitor the traffic. The Town will also look into bus stop signs for areas with high traffic.

POLICE REPORT: There were 124 calls for service, 35 traffic stops, and 31 summons issued. Chief Kent thanked Town Council for appointing her as Chief for the last 6 years.

PLANNING COMMISSION: New officers were elected. Elizabeth Franklin was elected as Chair, Regis Slaw as the Vice Chair, and Elizabeth Davis as the Secretary. They also approved the Packett apartment proposal to council.

NORTHERN NECK REGIONAL JAIL REPORT: Total population breakdown is included in Council packets. Federal population is now up to 211.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY REPORT: A copy is included in packets.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT REPORT: The report on ARPA spending to date was provided to Councilmembers in the packets. \$370,395 has been spent and that leaves us with a remaining balance of \$1,171,154. One of the larger expenses coming up would be the new water meter system. That will make a big difference and comes with a lot of benefits to the town and the residents.

OLD BUSINESS

Projects Report: VDOT is moving into the right of way acquisition phase for the sidewalk project. One of the aerators at the pond is not working, so we are trying to get that fixed before the hot weather gets too bad.

Community Market Structure: A new rendering was sent over and is included in the packet. The height was increased to accommodate delivery trucks.

NEW BUSINESS

NNRJ Budget adoption: The budget increased due to increase in salaries and an increase in inmates.

Councilman Forrest made a motion to approve the NNRJ budget. Councilwoman Hubert seconded the motion which was carried by the following votes:

Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Rebecca Hubert	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Jonathan B. English	Aye		

Rotary Club Flagpole donation: Would like to commemorate their 76 years in Warsaw with the donation of a 40ft flagpole. After discussion, it was determined that Council would love to have it and Joseph Quesenberry is going to work with them on a location.

Small Business Month Resolution: Vice-Mayor Yackel read the resolution, designating May as Small Business Month to honor Warsaw’s small business community.

Councilman Forrest made a motion to adopt the resolution designating May as Small Business Month as it was read. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion which was carried by the following votes:

Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Rebecca Hubert	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Jonathan B. English	Aye		

CLOSED SESSION – 2.2-3711 A1 (Personnel) & A5 (Potential Business)

Councilman Forrest moved to enter closed session in accordance with Section 2.2-3711A (1) Personnel and Section 2.2-3711A (5) Potential Business of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bryant and carried with the following votes.

Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Rebecca Hubert	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Jonathan B. English	Aye		

Councilman Forrest moved to come out of closed session and reenter regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hubert and carried with the following votes.

Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Rebecca Hubert	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Jonathan B. English	Aye		

Council then certified by roll call vote that they only discussed matters cited in the motion to enter closed session and legally permitted to be so discussed in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act subsections cited in the motion to enter closed session. The roll call votes are as follows.

Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Rebecca Hubert	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Jonathan B. English	Aye		

The Community Market Redesign was readdressed after closed session. Councilman English made a motion to approve the Community Market redesign. Councilwoman Hubert seconded the motion which was carried by the following votes:

Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Rebecca Hubert	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Jonathan B. English	Aye		

CLOSING COMMENTS

Councilwoman Hubert: Very good meeting- we were able to get a lot done.

Vice-Mayor Yackel- With some items being tabled, Council members please do your due diligence before the next meeting.

Councilman Forrest- Great meeting; handled a lot of business in a respective manner.

Councilman English- Good work everyone; a lot of collaboration between members.

Councilwoman Bryant- Excellent meeting.

There being no further business, Vice-Mayor Yackel adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Submitted by: Julia Blackley-Rice, Clerk